

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MARCH 28, 2011

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session, Monday, March 28, 2011 with Commissioners, Tom Barnes, Marvin Cole, Ken Masters, Deborah Adams, Auditor, and Leigh Morning, County Attorney in attendance.

Commissioner Tom Barnes called the meeting to order. Tom Barnes made a clarification of the minutes in the Agenda 21 section. Barnes clarified that the minutes should have reflected that it was a yes to gun laws and a no to illegal aliens moving into our areas. Marvin Cole made the motion to approve the March 14, 2011 minutes as corrected, Ken Masters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

GLENWOOD VOL. FIRE DEPT.

Rodney Richardson of the Town of Glenwood appeared before the commissioners to discuss the current situation of their existing town siren. Richardson reported that the siren has not been used since the early 1990's. Glenwood has approximately 140 homes and businesses with 300 to 400 residents.

Richardson reported that commissioner Ken Masters encouraged him to get quotes. Richardson submitted a quote from Custer Electric in the amount of \$1,200.00 Richardson asked the commissioners to consider paying the upgrade cost. Richardson explained that the siren would be used as a severe weather early warning system that would be activated by the Sheriff Department.

Tom Barnes shared that the county obtained the OCRA monies for the volunteer efforts. Barnes continued explaining that they would need to go to the council to get their approval. Ken Masters made the motion for Tom Barnes to go before the County Council, asking for the \$1,200.00 appropriation siren upgrade for the Glenwood Fire Department. Marvin Cole seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AREA PLAN

Bill Todd, APC Director, stated there continues to be ongoing problems in a subdivision and would like to request an executive session. Leigh Morning questioned Todd and explained that only initiation of litigation or litigation that is either pending or has been or has been threatened in writing allows the holding of an executive session.

Todd proceeded to explain that property owners are having problems with lending institutions due to the road in the sub-division not being completed. Todd continued to explain that the road was not built according to the 1997 standards as outlined on the sub-division blue prints.

Jerry Sitton raised the question as to why they are concerned about this sub-division. Sitton commented that the county already had enough roads to be maintained.

John Saxon of Homer questioned where the sub-division is located. It was revealed that the location was the Ruth Smith Sub-Division located off of Airport Road.

Tom Barnes shared that the commissioners did not create the situation. The sub-division homeowners need to collectively get together to resolve the situation.

Bill Todd reported on the Cherry Street project. Todd discussed the drainage meeting regarding a retention pond. Todd noted that a meeting will be scheduled with the Surveyor and the Drainage Board.

PHOENIX LODGE No.62, F. &A.M.

Marvin Rees, Secretary of the Phoenix Lodge, came before the commissioners expressing interest on behalf of the Lodge to purchase the former junior high school property located between sixth and seventh North Perkins Streets in Rushville.

Rees presented a letter explaining that the Phoenix Lodge is a 501 (c) (10) fraternal organization. Questions were raised if an appraisal was necessary. Leigh Morning explained that if the property were to be transferred to a non-profit organization an appraisal was not necessary. Morning did share that everyone would need to come to a price agreement.

Discussion was held regarding the current agreement with Sunesis the current contract engineers for the State Road 3 project. Sunesis has usage of the empty property for the duration of the Main Street project. Rees did indicate that the Lodge would like to build before the next winter season.

NATIONAL ABLE NETWORK

Ron Tolliver, of the National Able Network, came before the commissioners to share with them information on a Senior Community Service Employment Program. Tolliver explained that the program is for older aged (55+) and lower income individuals. The program provides federal funding for individuals working twenty (20) to twenty-four (24) hours weekly.

Ken Masters made the motion to take the matter under advisement. Marvin Cole seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FIBER OPTIC

Mike McCarley, Special Projects Engineer of Nine Star Connect (formerly Hancock Rural Telephone Corporation) appeared before the commissioners. McCarley was seeking permission to bore a fiber optic cable to the north side of the Courthouse. The cable will be

installed in the basement of the courthouse. Ken Masters made the motion to allow the boring and installation of the fiber optic cable. Marvin Cole seconded the motion. Motion carried.

I-T

Randy Herbert, I-T Technician, reported that he met with Jim Finan, ECDC Director. Herbert reported that he was connecting the ECDC office into the county GIS as a read only service.

Herbert reported that he has researched the EMA blackberry phone still showing active by Rob Puckett. Herbert stated that the phone was cancelled January 18, 2011 and the county will receive a refund for the charges.

Jerry Gulley will be installing the EMA TV monitor equipment in the commissioner's room over the next three weeks Herbert reported.

Herbert reported that he was installing wireless access points for webinars in the Health Department. Deborah Adams asked for webinar locations in the courthouse as many training classes were now going this route.

EMA

EMA Director Mike Ooley was absent and submitted his report through Tom Barnes. Barnes reported that the 2011 SHAP grant was scratched for District 6 by the state on March 22, 2011. The state did allow a new proposal up to \$100,000.00 to be delivered on March 22, 2011 that was opened up to generators. A proposal was submitted for 92,700.00 for a 230 KW generator, switch panels and installation.

Tornado sirens sounded in the city last week and the courthouse employees did not know where to go. Ooley will put together a tornado plan and a bomb threat plan and submit it to the commissioners for their approval.

Barnes reported that Ooley recommended that all telephones be signed up for code red for storm alerts. Barnes reported that a severe weather radio will be placed in the auditor's office. Ooley has talked to Ron Jarman and he and Randy Herbert should have the capability to have an (all page all talk) function to dispatch emergencies to all phones.

AIR EVAC

Lori McGowan, Membership Sales Manager of Air Evac, appeared before the Commissioners to discuss an employee membership plan. McGowan explained if more than fifty (50) employees joined then the annual membership fee would drop by \$10.00. After further discussion Ken Masters made the motion to allow a payroll attachment informing employees of the offer. Marvin Cole seconded the motion. Motion carried. McGowan did ask

of the possibility of having the membership being financed as a payroll deduction. The commissioners informed her that payroll deduction is not an option at this time.

AGENDA 21

Joyce Morrell of Arlington provided a follow up on Agenda 21 to the commissioners. Tom Barnes did comment that he had read the material provided and agreed with most of what he had read.

Morrell asked the commissioners to keep in mind the three “*EEE’s*” while making decisions:

- E – Environment
- E – Economy
- E – Equity

SHERIFF

Jeff Sherwood, Sheriff, reported forty-one (41) inmates incarcerated in the Rush County jail.

JAIL

Jerry Sitton, Highway Superintendent, had nothing to report.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Jerry Sitton, Chairman Employee Health Insurance Committee, reported that Rush Memorial Hospital is in our network but the ER doctors are NOT in the network. The ER doctors are billed out of state. The commissioners informed Sitton that they have a Hospital Board meeting that evening and will discuss it during their meeting.

AUDITOR

Deborah Adams, Auditor, received approval on payroll claims for the period ending April 1, 2011 on a Motion by Marvin Cole, seconded by Ken Masters. Motion Carried. Bi-Weekly claims submitted for the period ending March 22, 2011 were approved on a motion by Ken Masters, seconded by Marvin Cole. Motion Carried.

Adams informed the commissioners that she and two deputies will be attending a half day Gateway budget training class in Columbus on Thursday, March 31.

Adams reported that the commissioner’s certificate sale began on Friday, March 25, 2011 and will continue until 8:00 pm Monday, April 4, 2011. Adams noted that a press release will be in both areas’ newspapers and on the radio.

Adams reported that due to budget cuts and constraints within the auditor’s office efforts are being made to go paperless. Adams reported that the claim and payroll allowance dockets

will be e-mailed to the commissioners allowing them to individually view or to print. Adams pointed out that the same is being done with other budget reports for office holders and department heads.

Adams reported that several counties throughout Indiana are doing tax distribution, along with other monthly distributions to local units by bank ACH payments or wire transfers. Adams explained that this would create a savings of tax dollars from the numerous forms being printed, postage and checks. Ken Masters made the motion to take the matter under advisement. Marvin Cole seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adams reported that the county employs an average of 139 employees. Ninety-four (94) employees receive their paycheck through direct deposit and the remaining forty-five (45) receive a paper check. Adams pointed out that this is 32% and again with her budget cuts she needed to look at every area of savings. Adams recommended to the commissioners that any "Newly Hired" county employee be mandatory for direct deposit. Adams noted that even she who was pro-choice did switch to direct deposit a few years ago. Tom Barnes asked if the employee handbook would need to be changed. Adams did answer that yes this would have to be reviewed. John Saxon of Arlington shared his concerns for those who do not maintain checking and savings accounts. Ken Masters made the motion to take the recommendation under advisement. Marvin Cole seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adams reported that the pink homestead verification forms were once again part of the TS-1 tax statements. Adams explained that any taxpayer not submitting a form during 2010 would have received a pink homestead form this year.

MISC.

- Reviewed the Treasurer's Monthly Report for the month ending February 28, 2011

Motion to adjourn was received from Marvin Cole. Ken Masters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

/c/Tom Barnes
Tom Barnes, Chairman

/c/Marvin Cole
Marvin Cole

/c/Ken Masters
Ken Masters

ATTEST:

/c/Deborah C. Adams
Deborah C. Adams, Auditor